

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Commission's)
Investigation of the) Case No. 17-2089-GE-COI
Disconnection Policies and)
Practices of Duke Energy Ohio,)
Inc.

**MOTION TO INTERVENE
OF
OHIO PARTNERS FOR AFFORDABLE ENERGY**

Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy ("OPAE") respectfully moves to intervene in this Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("Commission") Investigation of the disconnection policies and practices of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. ("Duke"). OPAE moves for leave to intervene pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §4903.221 and Rule 4901-1-11 of the Commission's Code of Rules and Regulations, with full powers and rights granted by the Commission specifically, by statute, or by the provisions of the Commission's Code of Rules and Regulations to intervening parties. The reasons for granting this motion to intervene are contained in the memorandum attached hereto and incorporated herein.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Colleen Mooney
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**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO INTERVENE
OF
OHIO PARTNERS FOR AFFORDABLE ENERGY**

Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy ("OPAE") should be permitted to intervene in this matter pursuant to Section 4903.22.1, Ohio Revised Code, and the Commission's Code of Rules and Regulations contained in Rule 4901-1-11 of the Ohio Administrative Code. The above-referenced Commission-ordered investigation will consider the disconnection policies and practices of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. ("Duke").

In determining whether to permit intervention, the following criteria are to be considered: the nature of the person's interest; the extent to which that interest is represented by existing parties; the person's potential contribution to a just and expeditious resolution of the proceedings; and whether granting the intervention will unduly delay or unjustly prejudice any existing party. OPAE meets all four criteria for intervention in this matter.

OPAE is an Ohio non-profit corporation with a stated purpose of advocating for affordable energy policies for low- and moderate-income Ohioans; as such, OPAE has a real and substantial interest in this investigation. Additionally, OPAE includes as members non-profit organizations located in the service area that will be affected by the investigation.¹ Moreover, many of

¹ A list of OPAE members can be found on the website: www.ohiopartners.org.

OPAE's members are community action agencies. Under the federal legislation authorizing the creation and funding of these agencies, originally known as the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, community action agencies are charged with advocating for low-income residents of their communities. OPAE also provides essential services in the form of bill payment assistance programs and weatherization and energy efficiency services to low-income customers of Duke. OPAE members are also non-residential ratepayers of Duke.

OPAE's primary interest in this investigation is to protect the interests of low and moderate-income residential customers and OPAE members whose provision of electric and natural gas distribution service may be affected by this Commission-ordered investigation. Further, OPAE has been recognized by the Commission in the past as an advocate for consumers and particularly low-income consumers, all of whom will be affected by the outcome of this investigation.

For the above reasons, OPAE has a direct, real and substantial interest in this matter. The disposition of this matter may impair or impede the ability of OPAE to protect its interests. No other party to the matter will adequately represent the interests of OPAE. OPAE is a rare organization that serves as an advocate, service provider and non-profit customer group. No other party represents this group of interests. OPAE's participation in this matter will not cause undue delay, will not unjustly prejudice any existing party, and will contribute to the just and expeditious resolution of the issues raised by this matter.

Therefore, OPAE is entitled to intervene in this Commission-ordered investigation with the full powers and rights granted by statute and by the provisions of the Commission's Code of Rules and Regulations to intervening parties.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Colleen Mooney

Colleen L. Mooney

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

A copy of this Motion to Intervene and Memorandum in Support will be served by the Commission's Docketing Division on the persons listed below via electronic transmission this 5th day of December 2017.

/s/ Colleen L. Mooney

Colleen L. Mooney

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Summary: Motion to Intervene and Memorandum in Support electronically filed by Colleen L Mooney on behalf of Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy